

Original Research Paper

Growth Performance Serum Biochemical and Hematological Parameters of Lambs Fed with Ration Containing *Nigella Sativa* Meal in Different Feed Forms

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Abstract: *Nigella Sativa* Meal (NSM) as a byproduct from *Nigella sativa* oil production contains high crude protein, but it is easily converted into ammonia (NH₃-N) in the rumen. The processing of feed containing NSM into mash, pellet and wafer forms is expected to optimize the use of NSM as a protein source in feed. The objective of this study was to evaluate the feed containing *Nigella Sativa* Meal (NSM) feeding in three different forms on growth performance, serum biochemical and hematological parameters of lamb. This study used a Randomized Block Design (RBD) with 3 treatments of feed forms: Mash (M), Pellet (P) and Wafer (W) and 5 replications. The concentrations of NSM in the rations were 20% with the same formulation in all treatments. The forage to concentrate ratio was 30:70. The results showed that different forms of feed have significant effect on crude protein and crude fiber intake, blood triglycerides and Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) concentration ($p < 0.05$). Feed in mash form resulted in higher body weight gain compared to other treatments with the average daily weight gain of mash (120.96 g), pellet (117.23 g) and wafer (119.80 g). Feed in pellet form produced better feed efficiency compared to other treatments, with an average efficiency of pellet (9.89%), wafer (9.46%) and mash (8.71%).

Keywords: Black Seed, Habbatussauda, Mash, Pellet, Wafer

Introduction

Exploration and diversification of protein source feed material are important to substitute the main feed commonly used in rations such as soybean meal. Habbatussauda (Black Seed) is famous as herbs which are processed for its oil. The waste of habbatussauda or commonly called *Nigella Sativa* Meal (NSM) or *Nigella sativa* cake, which is derived from habbatussauda oil industry with pressing methods contains dry matter 91.9%, crude protein 23.3 and ash 9.6% (Ali *et al.*, 2012). The NSM also contains several minerals such as Mg, Fe, Cu, Ca and K (Cheikh-Rouhou *et al.*, 2007).

NSM has the potential to be used as feed material for protein source because of high crude protein content in it. In ruminants, when feed protein sources enter the rumen, the protein will be degraded into ammonia (NH₃-N) which can be used by rumen microbes for microbial protein synthesis. The ammonia absorbed from the rumen will be converted into urea by the liver and will be distributed to the blood and the extracellular space, excluding gastro

intestinal tract water and eventually lost through urine (Colmenero and Broderick, 2006). The results of Gustian (2017) stated that the use of NSM as much as 10 and 20% in feed increased the performance of Indonesian local lamb. This indicates that the NSM has a good nutrient content to improve the performance of lamb. However, the results of Barkah *et al.* (2017) stated that the use of NSM with levels of 10 and 20% in the ration significantly increased Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN) levels. High levels of BUN indicate that NSM addition in feed increases protein degradation in the rumen which can lead to inefficient protein utilization due to excessive degradation of protein before it is used and absorbed in intestines. Increased levels of dietary protein significantly increased BUN levels (Norrappoke *et al.*, 2012), rumen NH₃-N concentration (Abadi *et al.*, 2015), urinary N excretion (Leonardi *et al.*, 2003) and decreased the efficiency of N utilization (Danes *et al.*, 2013). It will cause economic loss, adverse environmental effects and possibly some metabolic diseases (Nocek, 1997).

N utilization in ruminant feed can be optimized by combining it with Readily Available Carbohydrate (RAC). According to Ranjhan (1977) RAC can stimulate microbial growth in the rumen which also causes the high use of NH₃-N for microbial growth so the total NH₃-N converted into urea will be reduced. The combination of NSM and RAC pollard produces optimal in vitro fermentability because the resulting concentrations of VFA and NH₃-N are suitable to support microbial protein synthesis (Barkah *et al.*, 2019). Moreover, various feed processing technologies have developed with various objectives, including increasing nutrient use, maintaining feed quality, increasing feed efficiency and reducing anti-nutritional substances (Retnani *et al.*, 2020)

Feed processing technology that has evolved are pelleting and wafering. Diets containing the same nutrients given in different forms (mash, pellets and blocks) can affect feed intake and nutrient digestibility, feed fermentation patterns in the rumen, body weight and feed conversion ratio (Karimizadeh *et al.*, 2017), retention of calcium and phosphorus minerals, digestibility of dry matter and organic matter, crude protein, NDF and ADF. Differences in feed form can affect animal eating behavior and fermentation process in the rumen. The compression in pelleting process causes an increase in agglomeration and hardness of feed particles which affect the rumination behavior, especially in the chewing process which is longer than the feed in the form of mash (Bertipaglia *et al.*, 2010). This research aims to evaluate the feed containing NSM in different feed forms (Mash, Pellets and Wafer) on performance, serum biochemical and hematological parameters of lambs.

Materials and Methods

Formulation and Feed Processing

Ingredients were formulated based on the nutrient requirements for 5 month old lamb with body weight 20 kg and daily weight gain 150 g head⁻¹day⁻¹ which was recommended by Kears (1982). The feed ingredients and nutrient content can be seen in Table 1.

The feed ingredients in Table 1 were mixed with the use of mixer machine. Before all the ingredients were mixed, NSM were milled by grinder with a diameter of die 6 mm. Then, feed concentrate is divided into 3 forms: Mash, pellet and wafer. Process of pelleting use a pelleter machine with diameter die 5 mm and a pellet size of 2 cm. Before that, the materials were added with water ±300 mL kg⁻¹ feed ingredients and mixed for 10 min in the mixer machine. After processing, the pellets were dried in the oven with temperature 60°C for 4 h. Wafers were made using

wafer machine with pressing and heating technique at 80°C for 10 min. The wafer size is 8 × 8 × 8 cm. Feed were packed in a sack and stored in a clean warehouse.

Climate and Weather Conditions

The climate at the experimental site was humid tropical, with an average temperature and Relative Humidity (RH) in the morning, afternoon and evening during the study were 24.38°C and 99%, 32.15°C and 70.41% and 29.24°C and 77.45%, respectively.

Experimental Animals and Feeding Trial

Fifteen Indonesian local male lamb 5 months of age with the average initial body weight 21.06±2.68 kg were randomly assigned to 3 treatments different feed forms: M (Mash), P (Pellet) and W (Wafer) comprising 5 replicates with 1 animal per replicate. The lamb were kept in individual pens for 65 days. Water was provided ad libitum. Adaptation period was 2 weeks allowing the lamb to adapt to the new feed. Before adaptation period, 2 mL Albendazole was orally administered to each lamb to minimize disease due to worm infection.

Feed was fed to the lamb by ad libitum. Ratio of the forage and concentrate given is 30:70. The forage were given one hour after harvest to reduce its moisture content. Everyday the lamb were given feed 4 times by making a turn between concentrates and forage. Feed remaining after one day was weighed every next morning by separating between feed concentrate and forage.

Table 1: Feed ingredients and nutrient content containing NSM with RAC combinations

| Ingredient | Formula |
|--|--------------|
| Field grass | 30.00 |
| Pollard | 24.50 |
| Rice bran | 22.05 |
| <i>Nigella sativa</i> meal | 19.60 |
| Molasses | 2.80 |
| CaCO ₃ | 0.70 |
| Premix | 0.35 |
| Nutrient Content ^a | |
| Dry matter (%) | 67.89 |
| Ash (%) | 7.09 |
| Crude protein (%) | 12.70 |
| Ether extract (%) | 2.27 |
| Crude fiber (%) | 15.23 |
| Nitrogen free extract (%) | 62.71 |
| Total digestible nutrient^b (%) | 66.92 |

^aEstimated results of calculations based on the nutrient content of each ingredient. ^bTotal Digestible Nutrient (TDN) in concentrate and grass is calculated using Wardeh (1981). TDN content in grass (%) = 1.6899+(1.3844 x % CP)-(0.8279 x % EE)+(0.3673 x % CF)+(0.7526 x % NFE); TDN content in concentrate (%) = 2.6407+(0.6964 x % CP)-(1.2159 x % EE)+(0.1043 x % CF)+(0.9194 x % NFE). CP is crude protein, EE is ether extract, CF is crude fat and NFE is nitrogen free extract

Evaluation of Growth Performance, Serum Biochemical and Hematological Parameters of Lambs

Evaluation of lamb growth performance was measured through nutrient intake, average daily gain, efficiency of ration usage and Income Over Feed Cost (IOFC). Nutrient intake was calculated based on the feed intake with nutrient content in it. The calculated nutrient intakes are Dry Matter Intake (DMI), Crude Protein (CP), Ether Extract (EE), Crude Fiber (CF) and the Nitrogen Free Extract (NFE). The lamb Average Daily Gain (ADG) was performed every 2 weeks to determine the weight gain. Efficiency value can be obtained from feed intake and weight gain during maintenance. The IOFC value was calculated to know the profit gained after the maintenance process. The IOFC value was based on the purchase and selling price of lamb and feeding cost during research period. The purchase and selling price of lamb was obtained from the price in effect in February 2019 in the Bogor market, West Java, Indonesia:

$$\text{IOFC} = \text{Selling price of lamb} - (\text{purchase price of lamb} + \text{feed cost during research period})$$

Blood samples were taken at the 8th week after the treatment to analyze metabolite profiles and blood hematology of lambs. Blood was taken through the jugular vein on the neck by using a 5 mL syringe with the size of the needle 22G X 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ”; parts of the neck was cleaned with a cotton 70% alcohol. The blood that has been taken was inserted into the 2 types of vacutainer tubes, there are the vacutainer tubes that have contained the EDTA anticoagulants (Ethylen Diamine Tetra Acetate) and the vacutainer tubes containing the gel separator (Serum Separator Tube/SST). Blood is inserted into cooler and brought to the laboratory to analyze the profile of metabolites and blood hematology.

The blood metabolites measured were glucose, triglycerides and BUN; based on enzymatic reactions using Clinical Chemistry Analyzer (Selectra Y Junior). Blood serum samples were taken in the vacutainer tubes containing the gel separator (Serum separator tube/SST). Analysis of blood glucose based on GOD-PAP (Glucose Oxidase-Peroxidase Aminotipirin) method at a wavelength of 500 nm (Subiyono *et al.*, 2016). Analysis of blood triglycerides based on GPO Method-PAP (Glyceryl Phospho-Para Amino Phenazone) at 500 nm wavelengths (Hardisari and Koiriyah, 2016). Blood glucose and triglyceride analysis results were directly printed. Blood urea analysis based on Urease method was done at 340 nm wavelength (Widihastono, 1993). Results of blood urea analysis was converted to Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN). The blood hematology analysis measured the number of erythrocytes according to the method of Sastradipradja *et al.* (1989). Meanwhile, analysis the number of leukocytes and hemoglobin level

were measured using Hematology Analyzer (Medonic) according to the method Nathalie *et al.* (2009).

Statistical Analysis

Data obtained from this study were analyzed using ANCOVA (Analysis of Covariance) with initial body weight of lamb as covariate through SPSS v20.0 and the significantly different data were continued with Bonferroni test.

Results and Discussion

Chemical Composition

The processing of concentrate feed into mash, pellets and wafer forms affects the nutrient content. The nutrient content of concentrate in mash, pellets and wafer forms can be seen in Table 2. The process of heating the pellets in an oven at 50°C for 4 h after forming, reduced the protein content by 2.04% compared to the protein content of the concentrate in mash form. Meanwhile, the wafering process with a temperature of 80°C for 10 min reduced protein content by 7.19% compared to the protein content of the concentrate in mash form. Protein content decreases with increasing heating temperature due to protein denaturation in feed (Novia *et al.*, 2011). According to wet and dry heating processes in feed processing can change the structure of the protein molecule. Processing of feed into pellets and wafers can change the structure of the protein as a result of the heating and pressing process (Salazar-Villanea *et al.*, 2016). According to Trisyulianti *et al.*, (2001) the wafering process by pressing at a temperature of 120°C, a pressure of 120 kg cm⁻² with a time of 10 min can change the nutrient content in the ration. Processing with heat will reduce protein digestibility by reducing protein solubility in digestion media, due in part to crosslinking of peptide chains (Broderick, 1977), increase availability of starch due to the process of gelatinization (Solanas *et al.*, 2005; Svihus *et al.*, 2005), thus increasing the level of fermentation in the rumen (Bertipaglia *et al.*, 2010).

Nutrient Intake

The process of feed processing into mash, pellet and wafer forms has no effect on DM, EE and NFE intake of forage (P<0.05). This indicates that the feed processing did not interfere with lamb palatability to feed, so it did not affect on feed intake. In this research, it is suspected that antinutrition in NSM is low, so the DM intake remains the same despite the differences of feed processing.

The data in Table 3 show that the feed processing into a mash, pellet and wafer significantly affected the CP intake of forage (P<0.05). This difference can be caused by several factors, including different maintenance periods, physiological conditions of animal and environmental conditions. CP intake with mash form was

higher than that of wafer and pellet forms. CP intake was influenced by DM intake of concentrate and crude protein content in concentrate feed. Table 2 shows that the different feed forms processing caused a decrease in crude protein content compared to feed in mash form. Then, in Table 3, although there was no significant difference from each treatment, feed in mash form has a higher of DM intake compared to the form of pellets and wafers. The high content of crude protein and DM intake in mash form led to the increased CP intake. According to NRC (2006) crude protein requirement of lambs with weight 10-20 kg and daily body weight gain of 100-150 g head⁻¹ day⁻¹ is 70-104 g head⁻¹ day⁻¹. The total crude protein intake in each treatment was relatively higher than the crude protein requirement recommended by NRC (2006), is 151-184 g head⁻¹ day⁻¹. It can be caused by the high need of CP for maintenance and needs CP for average daily gain in Indonesian local lamb which one of them related to the high temperature in the tropics (Jayanegara *et al.*, 2017). Crude fiber (CF) intake of forage and total crude fiber intake in this study were not significantly affected ($P > 0.05$) by the treatments. However, the difference in feed form had a significant effect ($P < 0.05$) on the CF intake of concentrate. CF intake in mash forms is higher than pellets and wafers. CF intake is influenced by DMI of concentrate and CF content in the feed. Table 2 shows that there is a decrease in CF content in the concentrate form of pellets and wafers compared to mash as a result of the processing of feed forms. According to Porter *et al.* (2007) the form of mash feed has a higher percentage of crude fiber digestibility than pellets. The average CF intake will increase along with the increase in CF content and DMI. The average intake of total CF in this study was around 17.53% of the DMI of the ration. According to Parakkasi (1999) the CF requirement of lambs ranges from 12 -14%. This shows that the need for crude fiber has been met properly. High crude fiber content in feed will increase mastication activity in animal and affect feed digestibility (Lu *et al.*, 2005; Tillman *et al.*, 1998).

Body Weight Gain

Table 4 shows that Average Daily Gain (ADG) tends to be the same in every treatment. This result is different from the research conducted by Karimizadeh *et al.*, (2017) stating that feeding in the form of block feed produces the best ADG compared to the feed in the form of mash and pellet. ADG that tends to be the same is suspected because of the environmental conditions that lack support for lamb growth performance, especially during the daytime high temperature exceeds the comfortable temperature limit for lamb and because of the high humidity in the morning reaches 99%. The efficiency of feed and IOFC also does not differ significantly with the different feed forms.

Selling price and purchase price of lamb based on market price in December-February 2019 amounted to Rp

75 000 kg⁻¹, concentrate price in the form of mash Rp 3191 kg⁻¹, pellet Rp 4691 kg⁻¹ and wafer Rp 4191 kg⁻¹. The grass price is Rp 500 kg⁻¹. The cost of feeding on pellet and wafer treatment is higher due to the addition of advanced feed processing costs. Although the results are not significant, the feed in the form of mash produces IOFC relatively higher than other form feed but has the lowest feed efficiency.

Blood Metabolite Profiles

Blood metabolite profiles describes the results of nutrient metabolism utilized by the body and serves as a source of energy, replacing damaged tissues and growth (McDonald *et al.*, 2002).

Table 5 shows that different feed forms did not significantly affect ($P > 0.05$) blood glucose levels, but significantly affected ($P < 0.05$) on triglyceride levels and BUN levels of lamb. Blood triglyceride levels in mash form are higher than in pellet and wafer forms. Blood triglyceride levels were influenced by the intake of fats and carbohydrates in feed (Soehardi, 2004; Tsallisavrina *et al.*, 2006). Carbohydrate intake also contributes to the increased levels of Fructose 2,6-biphosphate so that phospholifruktokinase-1 becomes more active and stimulate glycolysis reactions. This increasing reaction of glycolysis will cause glucose to be converted into fatty acids as well. Free fatty acids together with glycerol form triacylglycerol. The higher the carbohydrate consumed, the higher the level of triacylglycerol in the blood (Marks, 2000).

The differences in the feed concentrate of mash, pellet and wafer affected the level of BUN in local lamb's blood ($P < 0.05$). The pellet form treatment has a lower BUN rate compared to the mash and wafer forms. The compression process in pelleted feed causes the feed to have a more compact form than other forms of feed. This causes the pellet form to be chewed longer than other forms, so that the flow rate of the pellet takes longer to enter the rumen. This causes the protein degradation process to be slower, which causes the conversion of ammonia to BUN also longer, so that the BUN content in the pellet form is lower than mash and wafer forms. BUN content reflects protein intake, the ratio of protein intake to the fermentation of organic matter in the rumen and also serves as an indicator of the status of proteins. Increased of proteins intake will increase the level of BUN (Martin *et al.*, 2005). BUN levels are positively correlated to the NH₃-N level in the rumen (Javaid *et al.*, 2008). The process of protein degradation will produce excess ammonia and is subsequently absorbed by the rumen wall and through the circulation of blood to the liver to undergo the process of change into urea, then through the blood circulation, some of the urea will be secreted into saliva and partly other unused to the kidneys to be secreted via urine (Tillman *et al.*, 1998).

Blood Hematology

Blood hematology is a determining indicator of physiological conditions and animal health. The number of erythrocytes, hemoglobin and the number of leukocytes in local lamb with forage and concentrate feed treatment in various forms are presented in Table 6.

Table 6 shows that blood erythrocytes did not significantly affected by the form of concentrate feed. According to

the number of blood erythrocytes remain stable due to homeostasis mechanism in the body of animal. Erythrocyte formation or erythropoiesis process is found in the spinal cord. Erythrocytes are formed from simple proteins in the form of amino acids which previously experienced a catabolic process in the liver. The factor that affects the erythropoiesis process is erythropoietin, a hormone that affects the activity of the spinal cord. Adequate food intake also supports the formation of erythrocytes.

Table 2: Nutrient content of feed concentrate and field grass

| Nutrient content | Field grass | Mash | Pellet | Wafer |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Dry matter (%) | 18.62 | 84.91 | 88.24 | 87.56 |
| Ash (%) | 14.60 | 9.60 | 10.60 | 10.06 |
| Crude protein (%) | 9.98 | 15.71 | 15.39 | 14.58 |
| Ether extract (%) | 2.12 | 3.40 | 3.80 | 3.85 |
| Crude fiber (%) | 27.33 | 12.79 | 10.45 | 11.47 |
| Nitrogen free extract (%) | 45.96 | 58.50 | 59.77 | 60.04 |
| TDN (%) | 58.39 | 64.56 | 64.78 | 64.51 |

Table 3: Nutrient intake from local lamb for 65 days fed with ration containing NSM in different feed forms

| Variables | Treatments | | |
|---|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| (g head ⁻¹ day ⁻¹) | Mash | Pellet | Wafer |
| Concentrate intake | | | |
| Dry matter | 493.44±63.14 | 450.43±52.15 | 510.04±193.55 |
| Crude protein | 48.80±6.24 | 44.55±5.16 | 50.44±19.14 |
| Ether extract | 10.46±1.34 | 9.55±1.11 | 10.81±4.10 |
| Crude fiber | 134.86±17.26 | 123.10±14.25 | 139.39±52.90 |
| Nitrogen free extract | 226.79±29.02 | 207.02±23.97 | 234.41±88.96 |
| Forage intake | Mash | Pellet | Wafer |
| Dry matter | 864.58±66.81 | 696.06±49.19 | 804.76±156.89 |
| Crude protein | 135.83±10.50b | 107.12±7.57a | 117.33±22.87ab |
| Ether extract | 29.40±2.27 | 26.45±1.87 | 30.99±6.04 |
| Crude fiber | 110.58±8.55b | 72.74±5.14a | 92.31±17.99ab |
| Nitrogen free extract | 505.78±39.09 | 416.04±29.40 | 483.18±94.19 |
| Total intake | Mash | Pellet | Wafer |
| Dry matter | 1358.02±119.18 | 1146.49±95.88 | 1317±48±341.35 |
| Crude protein | 184.63±15.45 | 151.67±12.06 | 168.18±40.78 |
| Ether extract | 39.86±3.33 | 36.00±2.82 | 41.90±9.83 |
| Crude fiber | 245.44±23.91 | 195.84±18.58 | 231.97±69.74 |
| Nitrogen free extract | 732.57±62.58 | 623.05±50.52 | 719.24±177.94 |

Table 4: The rate growth of 15 local lamb for 65 days, fed with ration containing NSM in different feed forms

| Variables | Treatments | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Mash | Pellet | Wafer |
| Initial body weight (kg head ⁻¹) | 21.20±4.67 | 20.63±1.44 | 22.84±3.66 |
| Final weight (kg head ⁻¹) | 29.57±5.87 | 28.25±2.71 | 30.63±3.75 |
| Average daily weight gain (g head ⁻¹) | 120.96±8.09 | 117.23±32.19 | 119.81±25.55 |
| Feed Efficiency (%) | 8.71±0.92 | 9.89±2.64 | 9.46±4.52 |
| IOFC (Rp head ⁻¹) | 336 051±83 686 | 240 181±145 317 | 284 299±139 904 |

Table 5: Average blood metabolites profile of 15 local lamb fed with ration containing NSM in different feed forms

| Variables | Treatments | | | Normal level |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | Mash | Pellet | Wafer | |
| Glucose (mg dL ⁻¹) | 71.44 | 81.23 | 75.58 | 50-100 ¹ |
| Triglycerides (mg dL ⁻¹) | 35.88 ^b | 19.46 ^a | 22.66 ^{ab} | 21-49 ² |
| BUN (mg dL ⁻¹) | 24.25 ^{ab} | 22.28 ^a | 26.27 ^b | 2-34 ³ |

Table 6: Average blood hematology of 15 local lambs fed with ration containing NSM in different feed forms

| Variables | Treatments | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| | Mash | Pellet | Wafer | Normal level |
| Erythrocytes (million mm ⁻³) | 9.56±0.68 | 9.69±1.04 | 10.65±1.33 | 9-15 ¹ |
| Hemoglobin (g %) | 12.30±0.72 | 13.43±0.61 | 12.23±1.11 | 8-16 ² |
| Leukocytes (thousand mm ⁻³) | 9.92±1.91 | 9.33±0.87 | 10.38±1.91 | 4-12 ³ |

The differences of feed forms did not affect on blood hemoglobin of lambs. Blood hemoglobin of local lambs level is still in a normal conditions according to Banks (1993), which is 8-16 g % which suggests that the form of concentrated feed mash, pellets and wafer does not interfere with the function of hemoglobin in the blood metabolism as an oxygen binder. Hemoglobin has a very important role to carry and regulate oxygen to the body tissues (Jain, 1993). The ability of blood to carry oxygen is generated by the level of hemoglobin in the blood and the chemical characteristics of hemoglobin (Cunningham., 2002). Hemoglobin levels are influenced by the adequacy of nutrients in feed, especially protein in the ration and digestibility, in addition to age, sex and type of animal.

The differences of feed forms did not affect blood leukocytes of lambs. The number of local lamb blood leukocytes in this study is within the normal range according to Kramer (2000), which is 4-12 thousand mm⁻³. Stated that the fattening lamb that were fed the pellet form had no significant effect on the number of leukocytes. Then, ruminants that fed the wafer form have normal levels of leukocytes, it indicates the absence of infection or inflammation (Retnani *et al.*, 2017). According to Barkah (2017) ration containing the NSM has a low content of to antibacterial substance, which is 0.015% thus causing an optimal immunity through an increase in the number of leukocytes.

The content of essential amino acids in protein functions as a building block for erythrocytes. Crude protein intake that meets the needs of sheep causes the formation of blood cells to be undisturbed, so that the numbers are still in normal levels. In addition to protein, iron is needed in the formation of hemoglobin as a building block for hemoglobin molecules. The need for vitamins for erythrocyte formation can be divided into two categories: Those required for the formation of hemoglobin and those required for nuclear proliferation and differentiation. Vitamin B6 is required for the formation of hemoglobin and the explanation seems to be the need for pyridoxal phosphate in heme biosynthesis. In addition, folic acid, vitamin B12 and vitamin C are also needed. A deficiency in these vitamins then causes cells with normal or increased hemoglobin counts but a decrease in the number of cells. Folic acid and B12 appear to function in erythrocyte maturation based on their role in nucleic acid biosynthesis and more specifically in DNA biosynthesis (Dinning, 1962).

Conclusion

Feeding lamb with ration containing *Nigella sativa* mealin three different forms has no significant effect on the dry matter intake, intake of ether extract and nitrogen free extract, blood glucose and blood hematology. However, it has a significant effect on the intake of crude protein and crude fiber, blood triglycerides and blood urea nitrogen. The pellet form give the best feed efficiency compared to mash and wafer form, but the different forms did not affect lamb performance.

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Author's Contributions

Nisa Nurmilati Barkah: Participated in growth performance experiments, coordinated the data-analysis and contributed to the writing of the manuscript.

Yuli Retnani: Organized and supervised the experiment work and wrote the manuscript.

Komang G. Wiryawan: Designed the research plan, supervised and interpreted the data, proofread the manuscript.

Annisa Rosmalia: Participated in blood metabolite profiles experiments, coordinated the data-analysis and contributed to the writing of the manuscript.

Ethics

This article is original and contains unpublished material. The corresponding author confirms that all of the other authors have read and approved the manuscript and no ethical issues involved.

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